

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XX

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1898

No. 35

Editorial

Report of the Conference

In this issue appears the report of the conference held at Winona Lake, the latter part of August. It is a very full report and should be preserved by all who are interested in the work. A digest of these proceedings, giving all the business of the conference, will be published in the Annual for 1899. This will put the work of the conference in convenient form for permanent file. Of the different departments of church work discussed at the conference we will speak later. For the present we desire to say that in our judgment it was the best conference the Brethren church ever held. It was larger in attendance, the business was accomplished with less jarring, and with greater unanimity, there was more Bible study and discussion, and on the whole a more Christlike spirit manifested among the delegates and visitors, than that of any previous meeting it has been our privilege to attend, and we have been present at all these meetings except one. For this unanimity of sentiment and Christlike spirit manifested among the Lord's people we praise God.

The proceedings of the conference took up much larger space than we had anticipated, and of course much other matter is crowded out.

Peace

One more war ended. Let us be profoundly thankful for the prospect of peace, and let us hope that never again in the lifetime of the nation shall the bugle call to battle and carnage ring its martial echoes among our peaceful hills and valleys. For four months we have had before our eyes the usual spectacles of war, destruction and death, the shouting of the captains, confused noise and garments rolled in blood. A new crowd of military heroes have sprung full grown into the white light of fame, and excited multitudes applaud our Deweys and our Hobsons to the skies. The glamor of military glory dazzles the eyes of our youth, and by every sign and sound they are taught to look upon war as the king's highway of ambition and power, the acme of aspiration and effort.

Upon the part of the United States it appears to have been as honorable a war as may be waged by a civilized nation. Unprecedented victory crowns our banners. Two great naval battles result in the destruction of two great fleets with a loss to the victors of only one life. Two great archipela-

goes, an empire in extent, are wrested from an old world tyranny, and introduced to the opportunities of liberty. In a day they are lifted out of the sixteenth and set down in the twentieth century.

Grave political problems spring from the results of this war. For the first time since the foundation of the Republic alien nations speaking strange tongues come under the dominion of our laws and our institutions. For the first time we reach beyond continental bounds and grasp empire from two oceans. For the first time we encroach upon the old world, and plant our feet firmly in the far off orient, where the nations are congregated like hungry eagles around the gigantic carcass of the great yellow dragon. What the outcome will be of this butting into old world politics, time alone can tell.

Important questions also confront the church, now that victory and peace opens new nations to the free preaching of the Gospel. In Cuba, in Porto Rico, in the Philippines have prevailed for ages the worst forms of Romish superstition and corruption, quenching every aspiration after knowledge and progress. A stagnant religion has brought forth a stagnant mentality and a stagnant conscience, dwarfed, distorted, destroyed; turned into the polluted channels of a sensual materialism, and running swiftly down into every sort of hideous and pathetic ruin. Here is an open door for all the churches. An empire has been won for political liberty. A far more arduous and heroic battle remains to be fought; an empire must be won for spiritual liberty, for righteousness, for Christ.

Announcement for Fourth Quarter 1898

We are now at work on the Quarterly for the last quarter of the year 1898. It will be ready for the mail by September 15, and on and after that date orders will be promptly filled. Order blanks have been mailed to all our schools of which we have any record in this office. If you have failed to get one of these blanks, kindly notify us by card and we will gladly supply you with what you need. In its improved form the Quarterly has met with almost universal favor among our people. They have our thanks for the many kind and encouraging words received from them, and trust that the literature may continue to merit the very liberal patronage accorded it in the past. Our readers may be assured that whenever improvements suggest themselves they will be at once made.

THE TRIUMPHS OF CHRISTIANITY

LUKE 4:16-22

Topic for Sept. 18.

Here is a topic which ought to make an enthusiastic meeting. An event is better than the prophecy and a fulfillment is better than a promise, so is a testimony better than a discourse. The triumphs of Christianity are its best defense. When Philip found Nathanael and told him of the Christ, Nathanael doubted but Philip simply said "come and see." He went and soon exclaimed, "Thou art the Christ the Son of God." Just so we need only to point to the work of Christianity and say "come and see." Everywhere ignorance and superstition and savagery are falling before it and its story of love, its precepts of holiness, its glorious cross, its gospel of peace and its uplifted Christ are winning the world to the kingdom of God. It triumphs, not by the bloody sword but by the scepter of love and its victories are not temporal but eternal. The limits of its conquests is fixed by the consecration of its people. The kingdom in its fullness is hastened or retarded by the devotion of its members. Let the good lessons brought out by this subject be to us a spur to greater activity and a closer walk with God.

HELP FROM THE WORD

1. Faith is the victory, I John 5:4; Heb. 11:32-40.
2. Victory over sickness and affliction, Matt. 8:16, 17; Acts 10:16; II Cor. 4:17.
3. Victory over sin, Matt. 1:21; Jude 24, 25.
4. Victory over evil spirits, Luke 10:17; Acts 10:38.
5. Christianity has brought liberty, John 8:33; Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:1.
6. Christianity has brought comfort, Luke 4:18; Rom. 8:21; II Cor. 3:17.
7. Christianity has brought beauty, Isa. 61:3.
8. Christianity has brought joy, Matt. 10:17; Acts 13:52; II Cor. 7:4.
9. The Gospel to the poor, Matt. 28:19; Mark 12:37; Jas. 2:5, 6.
10. The final triumph, Rev. 21:1-10, 24:27; I Cor. 24:29.

FOR ANSWER IN THE MEETING

1. Why are the boundaries of Christianity coincident with those of civilization today?
2. What has Christianity done for women?
3. What has Christianity done for the blind? for the poor? for the helpless? for the slave?
4. What great men have been Christians?
5. How does Christianity achieve its victories?
6. How is Christianity hindered from still greater triumphs?

C. F. YODER.